

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01341 260926Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 INR-05  
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EUR-08 OES-02 SP-02 PRS-01 /043 W  
-----025231 261424Z /43

P R 260855Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4689  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1341

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: TSPA, UR, CA, JA  
SUBJECT: REENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE

REF: TOKYO 1248

1. PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA WAS QUESTIONED IN DIET SESSION  
AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 25 ON REENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE.  
INTEROGATOR WAS CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI, HEAD OF KOEMITO PARTY  
IN DIET. FUKUDA READ BRIEF STATEMENT (PREPARED BY  
WATANABE, FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIVDIR, WITH ASSISTANCE  
OF EMBASSY). STATEMENT NOTED THAT LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY  
INVOLVED WERE SMALL, THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE  
DIFFICULTY IN OBSERVING IT IN CANADA, AND THAT THERE  
WOULD BE ALMOST NO POSSIBILITY THAT RADIOACTIVITY COULD  
BE DETECTED OVER JAPAN. HOWEVER, RAIATION DETECTION  
EQUIPMENT WAS IN OPERATION AND CLOSE WATCH WOULD BE  
MAINTAINED. FUKUDA NOTED THAT JAPAN HAD BEEN ALERTED  
BY US IN ADVANCE, HAD DETERMINED THAT PROBABILITY  
OF REENTRY OVER JAPAN WAS VERY SMALL, AND HAD DECIDED  
THAT NO PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED IN ALERTING PUBLIC,  
ALTHOUGH DEFENSE AGENCY AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
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AGENCY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONARY  
MEASURES. THIS SEEMED TO SATISFY OPPOSITION AND NO  
FURTHER DEBATE ENSUED.

2. WATANABE HAS EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF GOJ'S DEEP APPRE-  
CIATION FOR INFORMATION FURNISHED IN ADVANCE BY USG.  
HE ALSO SAID CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON

HAD DISCUSSED INCIDENT WITH PM FUKUDA AND AGREED TO FURNISH GOJ ALL TECHNICAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO GOC. WATANABE OFFERED TO MAKE THIS AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY UPON RECEIPT, ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTED THAT OTTAWA WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON DIRECTLY.

3. JAPANESE EDITORIAL COMMENT JANUARY 26 SAW CRASH AS HIGHLIGHTING NEED FOR GREATER GENERAL DISARMAMENT. MAINICHI NOTED THAT "FUNDAMENTAL STEP TO BE TAKEN FOR PREVENTION OF SUCH ACCIDENTS IS TO DISCONTINUE EFFORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS AND CUT NUMBER OF NUCLEAR MISSILES," WHILE YOMIURI ARGUED FOR SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION AT UN FOR LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS IN SPACE. ALL URGED MORE CAREFUL MEASURES TO GUARANTEE SAFETY OF SATELLITES, AND SANKEI SUGGESTED ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON PREVENTION AND HANDLING OF SIMILAR ACCIDENTS. ASAHI COMMENTED THAT CRASH HAD AROUSED STRONG FEAR OF UNREST OVER RADIOACTIVITY AND DOUBTS ABOUT US-SOVIET COMPETITION FOR "SPACE DEVELOPMENT." SATELLITE DESCENT WAS FEATURE STORY ON JANUARY 25 TELEVISION NEWS. MOST COVERAGE WAS REASONABLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD ALTHOUGH IN SOME COMMENTARY THERE WAS HINT OF THEME THAT SKY WAS FULL OF UNKNOWN DANGERS.  
MANSFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SATELLITES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TOKYO01341  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 78 TOKYO 1248  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3705104  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE  
**TAGS:** TSPA, UR, CA, JA  
**To:** STATE MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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